



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Urges Overseas Voters to Vote in 5th CD Special Election

Applications and Registration Forms Available through Web

Sacramento – Military personnel and citizens who are living abroad and are registered or eligible to register to vote in the 5th Congressional district are entitled to apply for an absentee ballot to vote in the March 8 special primary to fill the vacant seat caused by the untimely death of Congressman Robert Matsui, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley reported today (Jan. 31).

"I urge all eligible voters to make their voices heard in this election," Shelley said. "Our office has worked to improve the process for our overseas and military voters so I hope they will find it easier to participate."

Under both state and federal law, military personnel and those who are visiting or living abroad may register and vote by mail or fax. Overseas voters with access to the Internet can obtain details about their right to vote and download the appropriate forms by visiting the Sacramento County web site at <http://www.saccounty.net/elections>.

Forms for registering to vote and applications for absentee ballots are also available from the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html>. Completed ballots may be faxed to the elections official, along with a statement waiving the voter's right to a secret ballot. The specific wording and form are available on the FVAP's web site, listed above. The Department of Defense makes toll-free fax numbers available for overseas voters.

Those eligible to vote in the 5th district but not yet registered must submit their registration forms to the elections office by Feb. 22nd. All registered voters may vote by mail if they submit an absentee ballot application to Sacramento County Registrar of Voters' Office by March 1. Completed absentee ballots must be received by Sacramento County's Registrar of Voters by the 8 p.m. close of polls on March 8th.

In the special election on March 8th, if no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes cast, a run-off between the highest vote-recipients of each party that participated in the primary will be held on May 3rd. Voters who request an absentee ballot in the special election will automatically receive an absentee ballot for the special run-off election if necessary.

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